



## PRESS RELEASE

### PANEL DISCUSSION

#### “GREECE AS A HUB FOR WORLD CLASS PROJECTS”

In the context of the

#### 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Capital Link Invest in Greece Forum

#### "Greece - Speeding Ahead Post Investment Upgrade"

**Monday, December 9, 2024 – New York**

**24 Sessions – 97 Top Speakers – 19 Listed Companies**

**An International Summit about the Greek Economy & Investment Opportunities in NEW YORK**

Featuring Top US and International Investors, Global & Greek Companies,  
Global Investment Banks & Institutions, High-Ranking Government Officials from Greece and the US

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**Digital Journal** <https://forums.capitallink.com/greece/2024/flip/>

**Agenda :** <https://forums.capitallink.com/greece/2024/agenda.html>

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

The following highly interesting Panel Discussion, titled **“GREECE AS A HUB FOR WORLD CLASS PROJECTS”**, was part of the agenda of the **26<sup>th</sup> Annual Capital Link Invest in Greece Forum: "Greece - Speeding Ahead Post Investment Upgrade"**, that was held with great success and participation, on **Monday, December 11, 2024** in New York, in cooperation with the New York Stock Exchange, the Athens Exchange Group (ATHEX Group), and major Global Investment Banks & Organizations, and under the Auspices of the Consulate General of Greece in New York. **«Goldman Sachs», «Morgan Stanley» and «TEN Ltd (Tsakos Energy Navigation) »** were the **Lead Sponsors**.

**The Panel was Co-hosted with Endeavor Greece.**

Moderator: **Mr. Panagiotis Karampinis**, Managing Director - **Endeavor Greece**

Panelists:

- **Mr. Costis Maglaras**, Dean - **Columbia Business School**, David and Lyn Silfen Professor of Business
- **Mr. Evan Kotsovinos**, Vice President & General Manager – **Google**
- **Ms. Eve Psalti**, Senior Director, Azure AI Engineering – **Microsoft**
- **Mr. Nico Gariboldi**, Thessaloniki Site Lead and CDI Leader - Vice President – **Pfizer**
- **Mr. Vassilis Kontozamanis**, Former Alternate Minister of Health - **Hellenic Republic**

**Mr. Panagiotis Karampinis**, Managing Director - **Endeavor Greece** stated: “Greece is emerging as a destination for world-class projects, building not just on its rich heritage but also on its dynamic and fast-growing innovation ecosystem. With more than 1,000 startups, \$12 billion in combined value, and foreign direct investments from world-class players like J.P. Morgan, Pfizer, Google, and Tesla but also top universities like Columbia Business School, Greece is now a completely transformed proposition for global talent, founders and investors. Through initiatives like Innovation Nation, a campaign launched by Endeavor Greece, we bring together in one place all the news, incentives and initiatives that put Greece in the map as an attractive destination in innovation worldwide.”

**Mr. Costis Maglaras**, Dean - **Columbia Business School**, David and Lyn Silfen Professor of Business, stated: “I am excited and honored to participate in this year’s Capital Link event in NYC to discuss and explore incredible opportunities for Greece, through which Greece can innovate in the European and global economy. Columbia University recently opened a Global Center in Athens, and through this physical presence, we hope to explore education and research collaborations with Greek universities and institutions; expose Columbia students to Greece by providing educational experiences in Athens; and more broadly be part of the intellectual life in this thriving country with its rich history, vibrant culture, and incredible human capital. From the classics to the arts, AI and climate adaptation, the energy transition, shipping, transportation and logistics, and life sciences and public health, there are myriad areas where Greece is innovating. Columbia is actively leading in many of these fields, and we look forward to collaborating. The economic trajectory of the country, along with its strategic investments and natural resources, positions Greece for growth and as a competitive leader in Europe and the world.”

**Mr. Evan Kotsovinos**, Vice President & General Manager – **Google**, stated: “I am excited about the opportunity for Greece to lead in both the development of AI technologies, and the adoption of AI to drive great productivity, efficiency, economic growth and prosperity. To do that, government and private sector need to work together to drive up investment in AI R&D, upskill the talent pool with state-of-the-art AI skills, and help support the adoption of AI technologies by Greek organizations. Google is excited and ready to continue to partner in this direction.”

**Ms. Eve Psalti**, Senior Director, Azure AI Engineering – **Microsoft**, stated: “Greece is experiencing a transformative period that positions it as an increasingly attractive destination for global technology investment. The convergence of strategic infrastructure development, a highly educated workforce, and forward-thinking policy initiatives that include the latest developments in artificial intelligence have created fertile ground for world-class projects, particularly in the technology and artificial intelligence sectors.

The country's emergence as a regional technology hub is evidenced by significant investments from global technology leaders, with Microsoft's strategic presence serving as a cornerstone of this digital transformation. This significant investment in data centers and cloud infrastructure not only validates Greece's potential but also creates a ripple effect, attracting additional international technology firms and fostering a robust digital ecosystem.

Greece’s Public Sector was the first to enter the era of Artificial Intelligence and significantly redefined its interaction with citizens, making Greece today a pioneer compared to other European countries. It all started with mAlgov, the first digital assistant in the Public Sector (with the Ministry of Digital Governance) which today handles more than 5,000 citizen inquiries daily, followed by mAlgreece, a personalized travel "companion" for all visitors to the country (with the Ministry of Tourism). Most recently, the automation of the Cadastre processes marked the first integration of Artificial Intelligence into public sector services.

Central to Greece's value proposition is its exceptional talent pool. This highly educated workforce, combined with competitive operational costs and an enviable quality of life, creates a compelling environment for technology companies seeking to establish or expand their European operations. Microsoft has committed to 100,000 trainings in digital skills as part of the National Transformation Plan (GRforGrowth) by 2025 to coincide with the development of the first datacenters for the country. In addition, Microsoft has already trained 65,000 people out of which 10K civil servants and 10K students.

What sets Greece apart in the current technology landscape is its commitment to responsible AI development. The government has implemented a comprehensive framework that balances innovation with ethical considerations, positioning Greece as a pioneer in responsible AI deployment. This approach aligns with global trends toward sustainable and ethical technology development, making Greece an attractive destination for companies prioritizing responsible innovation.

As Greece continues to strengthen its digital infrastructure and implement investor-friendly policies, it stands ready to capitalize on the next wave of technological advancement, offering international investors a unique combination of talent, infrastructure, and forward-thinking governance.”

**Mr. Nico Gariboldi**, Thessaloniki Site Lead and CDI Leader - Vice President – **Pfizer**, stated: “I consider this event as the most relevant discussion about US companies investing in Greece and I was particularly proud of sharing the successful story behind the investment of Pfizer in Thessaloniki which counts now 1.200 young talents making innovation and supporting our purpose of delivering breakthrough that change patient’s life.”

**Mr. Vassilis Kontozamanis**, Former Alternate Minister of Health - **Hellenic Republic**, stated that in the years to come, the healthcare sector will be one of the most attractive areas for investment. Whether through supporting health tech startups, investing in health infrastructure, or exploring new models of care, there is enormous potential to transform Greece into a hub for healthcare innovation.

The Greek government has already introduced a range of reforms to strengthen the healthcare sector, including tax incentives for healthcare startups and investments in public-private partnerships. A strong focus is also placed on integrating innovation and technology into the healthcare system.

Greece has set forth a bold healthcare reform agenda, which includes a forward-thinking vision, clear policy actions, and a commitment to sustainable financing. Key reforms are centered around revising healthcare funding models, enhancing transparency in healthcare spending, and ensuring that reforms align with demographic changes and evolving needs.

Without a doubt, Greece is laying the groundwork to become globally competitive in the life sciences sector and in industries driven by cutting-edge technologies, such as the innovation-focused biopharma sector.

With a favorable economic climate and supportive government policies, Greece offers an array of investment opportunities in healthcare, including medical tourism, digital health, biotechnology, pharmaceutical manufacturing, clinical trials, pharmaceutical services, and elderly care services.

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## THE FORUM WAS ORGANIZED:

**In Cooperation With:** New York Stock Exchange – NYSE & Athens Exchange Group (ATHEX Group)

**Under The Auspices:** of the Consulate General of Greece in New York, which hosted a welcome reception for all speakers.

**This International Summit about Greece held in New York, has been taking place year after year, regardless of the political and economic conditions in Greece. With a 26-year track record of success, it has been engaged in a systematic effort to highlight Greece’s profile to a global business and investment audience. The Forum was organized in a particularly positive timing for Greece, Featuring Top US and International Investors, Global & Greek Companies, Global Investment Banks & Institutions, High-Ranking Government Officials from Greece and the US (4 Greek Ministers), 19 Listed Companies, and 97 Top Level Speakers. This year's forum was particularly significant as Greece is now experiencing a remarkable upturn in economic growth and inflow of foreign investments. The regaining of the Investment Grade Rating is a milestone for the Greek economy, attracting long-term capital and creating favorable liquidity conditions. This rating status unlocks opportunities for a significant influx of foreign capital, facilitated by the significant efforts in digitalization and tax**

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incentives. The country offers diverse sectors ripe for investment, including infrastructure, hospitality, real estate, and energy. Greece's geographical position at the crossroads of three continents provides easy access to emerging and mature markets.

The Prime Minister of Greece, H.E. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, opened the Forum and delivered the Greek Government's message to international investors, with a written message which was read by Mr. Nicolas Bornozis, President of Capital Link.

**Keynote Remarks by Greek Ministers:** Minister of Infrastructure & Transport, H.E. Christos Staikouras – former Minister of Finance, Minister of Labour & Social Security, H.E. Niki Kerameus, Alternate Minister of Economy & Finance, H.E. Nikolaos Papathanasis, and Deputy Minister of Environment & Energy, H.E. Alexandra Sdoukou.

**Greek Government Officials:** Ms. Mary Psylla, General Secretary of Tax Policy - Ministry of Economy & Finance, Mr. Orestis Kavalakis, Governor of Recovery and Resilience Facility Coordination Agency - Ministry of Economy and Finance, Mr. Dimitrios Tsakonas, Director General - Public Debt Management Agency, Mr. George Pitsilis, Governor – Independent Authority for Public Revenue, and Mr. Vassilis Kontozamanis, Former Alternate Minister of Health.

**US Government Representative • H.E. George J. Tsunis**, U.S. Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic - U.S. Embassy in Athens.

**European Investment Bank** was represented by Mr. Yannis Tsakiris, Vice President.

The Athens Exchange Group was represented by Mr. Yianos Kontopoulos, CEO - Athens Exchange Group, (via webcast), and Enterprise Greece by Dr. Marinos Giannopoulos, CEO.

The Forum featured the important participation of representatives from ❖ **the biggest Greek Banks:**

- 1) **Four Systemic Banks, Alpha Bank - Eurobank - National Bank - Piraeus Bank,**
- 2) **Attica Bank and Hellenic Development Bank of Investments (HDBI ex TANEO),** and
- 3) from ❖ **major Global Investment Banks • Barclays • BNP Paribas • Goldman Sachs International • Morgan Stanley • Nomura • AXIA Ventures Group.**
- 4) **Participating speakers in investor panel, representatives from: AXIA Ventures Group - Brook Lane Capital - CVC Capital Partners • Grifon Capital Advisors • Oaktree**

❖ **19 Listed Companies :** • AKTOR Group of Companies (ATH:INKAT) • Alpha Services & Holdings S.A. (ATH:ALPHA) • Athens Stock Exchange S.A. (ATH:EXAE) • Athens International Airport S.A. (ATH:AIA) • Athens Water Supply & Sewage Company S.A. (ATH:EYDAP) • Attica Bank S.A. (ATH:TATT) • AVAX Group (ATH:AVAX) • Dimand S.A. (ATH: DIMAND) • Ellaktor S.A. (ATH:ELLAKTOR) • Eurobank Ergasias Services & Holdings S.A. (ATH: EUROB) • GEK TERNA S.A. (ATH:GEKTERNA) • HELLENiQ ENERGY Holdings S.A. (ATH: ELPE) • IDEAL Holdings S.A. (ATH:INTEK) • LAMDA Development S.A. (ATH:LAMDA) • Metlen Energy & Metals S.A. (ATH:MYTIL) • National Bank of Greece S.A. (ATH: ETE) • Piraeus Financial Holdings S.A. (ATH:TPEIR) • Public Power Corporation S.A. – PPC (ATH:PPC) • Trastor REIC (ATH:TRASTOR).

During the Official Luncheon the Greek Minister of Infrastructure & Transport, Mr. Christos Staikouras, Mr. Christos Megalou, Chief Executive Officer, Piraeus Group, and Ms. Eleni Vrettou, CEO - Attica Bank delivered Keynote Remarks. Mr. Chris Taylor, Global Head of Listings – NYSE, Mr. Yianos Kontopoulos, CEO - Athens Exchange Group, and Dr. Nikolas P. Tsakos, Founder, Chairman & CEO - TEN Ltd. (NYSE: TEN); Chairman, INTERTANKO 2014-2018, delivered Welcome Remarks.

The Forum concluded with an Official Dinner during which the "2024 Capital Link Hellenic Leadership Award" was presented to Dr. Yannis Stournaras, Governor of Bank of Greece, for his invaluable contributions to the European and Greek economies, and for his instrumental role in keeping Greece as part of the Euro and to Greece's return to economic growth and prosperity.

Dr. Yannis Stournaras delivered Keynote Remarks.

The Dinner opened with a brief Welcoming Speech by The Ambassador of Greece to the USA, H.E. Ekaterini Nassika.

Dr. Yannis Stournaras was introduced by Mr. John Paulson, President & Portfolio Manager - Paulson & Co.

«GREEK AMERICAN ISSUER DAY» at NYSE-New York Stock Exchange.

On Tuesday, December, 10, 2024, within the context of the "26<sup>th</sup> Annual Capital Link Invest in Greece Forum", the New York Stock Exchange in cooperation with Capital Link organized for a 20<sup>th</sup> year in a row, a special ceremony, the "Greek American Issuer Day at NYSE", honoring Greece and Celebrating the Close Ties between the US, the Greek American and the Greek

Business Communities, during which Greek & Greek American companies listed on the New York Stock Exchange rang the “Closing Bell” - at NYSE-New York Stock Exchange.

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**ABOUT CAPITAL LINK**

*Founded in 1995, Capital Link is a New York based investor relations, financial communications, and advisory firm with a strategic focus on the maritime, commodities and energy sectors, MLPs, as well as Closed-End Funds and ETFs. Based in New York City, Capital Link has presence in London, Athens & Oslo. The company is a member of the Baltic Exchange and works very closely with the New York Stock Exchange, NASDAQ and the London Stock Exchange as well as with major international and supranational organizations and industry associations in the areas of the firm's strategic concentration.*

*Capital Link offers a full suite of services including strategic and corporate advisory, investor relations, media relations, public and industry relations and the organization of corporate events. Capital Link's proactive approach integrates Investor Relations, Information Technology and Media, enhancing awareness and branding for our clients through tailored outreach programs targeting analysts, institutional and individual investors and the financial media complemented by extensive and uniquely powerful marketing platforms.*

*Capital Link is also known for the organization of 18 top-level investment and industry forums, Webinars and Podcasts, the majority of which focus on maritime transportation and U.S. investment products, in 10 countries in Europe, the United States and Asia, in key industry centers, such as New York, London, Oslo, Hamburg, Athens, Limassol, Shanghai, Singapore, Tokyo and Hong Kong, featuring industry leaders focusing on investment strategies, sectors, critical topics of interest to the investment community that draw the elite of the global financial, investment and business communities. Capital Link holds about 18 forums annually focusing on the areas of its strategic concentration.*

*The Capital Link brand is widely recognized and valued worldwide by participants in these communities for combining rich informational and educational content with as well as superior networking opportunities with a global marketing platform that enhances the visibility and reach of these events on a global scale that lasts well beyond the date on which each event is held, becoming a continuous reference point for market participants.*

*Capital Link's efforts have been recognized in 2023 by HABA – Hellenic American Association for Professionals in Finance, in 2018 by the Finance Monthly CEO Awards, in 2016 by the Wealth & Finance Magazine - by the International Propeller Club of the United States and by AHI-American Hellenic Institute, in 2013 and 2012 by the InterContinental Finance Magazine, and also in 2011 by the Lloyds's List Greek Shipping Awards.*